

# **The Gazette of India**



**EXTRAORDINARY**

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**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY TO THE PRESIDENT**

**NOTIFICATION**

*New Delhi, the 12th February, 1952*

**No. 21-Pres./52.**—The President is pleased to approve the award of the **ASHOKA CHAKRA**, Class I, to the undermentioned officer for most conspicuous bravery :—

**No. 2883-F/Lt. SUHAS BISWAS, I.A.F.**

On Sunday, the 3rd February 1952, a Devon Aircraft carrying six passengers, which included the Army Commander Western Command, the Chief of the General Staff, the Quartermaster General, one Divisional Commander, the Military Secretary and the Deputy Director of Supplies and Transport, Army Headquarters, was piloted by F/Lt. SUHAS BISWAS on a flight from Lucknow to Delhi. Soon after the aircraft left Lucknow at about 18.00 hours, the port engine developed serious trouble and caught fire. F/Lt. BISWAS tried hard to extinguish the fire but without success; so he immediately decided to force land. It was then getting dark but there was just sufficient light to choose a flat piece of ground. During the descent from 6,000 feet, the burning port engine fell out and the aircraft got out of control, but F/Lt. BISWAS soon succeeded in bringing the aircraft under control. He then switched off the only engine functioning, and made a successful belly landing under the worst conditions, thus averting a major disaster.

Fully realising the gravity of the situation and in the face of certain disaster, F/Lt. BISWAS's demeanour and behaviour in the plane was inspiring. At no time did he show that he was not in complete control of the situation. His presence of mind when the plane caught fire, skilful navigation of the plane when the engine had fallen out and his courage in landing the plane on unrecognised ground in twilight, showed leadership of the highest order and set a magnificent example of extreme devotion to duty.

**SHAVAX A. LAL, Secy.**

